

NEWS from

The Savannah River Site



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SRS PROJECTS HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

AIKEN, S.C. (May 20, 2003) – Two Savannah River Site projects were honored today at the Third Annual Secretary of Energy’s Project Management Awards. The SRS Highly Enriched Uranium Blend Down Project, which converts weapons-usable uranium into low enriched uranium for use in the production of electricity, received the Secretary’s Excellence in Acquisition Award at a ceremony at DOE-Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The award is presented to an individual or team that has demonstrated “exceptional” results in completing a project within cost and schedule. In addition, the site’s K Area Nuclear Material Storage Project received an Honorable Mention

The HEU Blend Down Project, which is a collaborative effort among DOE-National Nuclear Security Administration, DOE-Environmental Management and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), enables SRS to “turn weapons into plowshares” by blending down surplus highly enriched uranium so that it is no longer usable for weapons. A substantial capital construction project, encompassing modifications to several areas of the site, was required to ensure that SRS could purify, blend down and load the material for shipment to TVA for use as fuel. New facilities constructed included an offloading station to move materials into the site’s H Canyon for purification, and a loading station for loading the blended-down uranium for shipment to TVA. In addition, tanks and piping were modified into a blending control system, and portions of the site’s central analytical laboratories were renovated and equipped with new instrumentation.

WSRC President Bob Pedde attributed the HEU Blend Down Project’s success to a disciplined approach to managing changes; experienced, knowledgeable people; and excellent teamwork among DOE-National Nuclear Security Administration, DOE-Environmental Management and WSRC personnel. “This project is a stellar example of how various entities can work together to achieve goals that would be impossible working independently,” he said. “I’m very pleased that our team has gotten this kind of good customer recognition in an area as important as project management.” Currently, with the project about 98 percent complete, it is under budget and substantially ahead of schedule.

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